

REMARKS:

Claims 1 to 19 and 21 to 37 are pending. Claims 1, 16, 24, and 31 have been amended. Claims 1 and 24 are the independent claims. Entry of this response, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of Previous Arguments

Applicants hereby withdraw all previous arguments made in this case as moot. In view of the Office Action, these arguments are immaterial to the allowance of any of the currently pending claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 24 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0149578 (Wong). Claims 1, 2, 4 to 7, 16 to 19, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wong in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0091614 (Yehia). Claims 3 and 31 were rejected under § 103() over Wong in view of Yehia and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0178077 (Katz). Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of Yehia and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0040823 (Harm). Claims 8 to 10 and 12 to 15 were rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of Yehia and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0023540 (Johnson). Claim 11 were rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of Yehia, Johnson, and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0028470 (Dutta). Claims 26, 27 and 30 were rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of Harm. Claims 28 and 29 were

rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0178077 (Katz). Claim 32 was rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of the Examiner's Official Notice. Claims 33 to 37 were rejected under § 103(a) over Wong in view of Johnson.

Discussion

Amended independent claim 1 recites the following:

1. A system including
one or more business entities defining a head of a supply chain;
one or more sets of tiers of suppliers, wherein each said set of tiers is disposed in an extended supply chain;
a workstation coupled to said one or more business entities and said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers;
a database including information from said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers relating to two or more of the following: price, inventory, delivery schedules, backorders and supply interruptions, exceptional events, contracts, and past transactions;
a dictionary of translations that can be used to translate transitive information in said information from said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers for cross-tier communication in said extended supply chain; and
an order collaboration system coupled to said workstation, whereby said one or more business entities can view updates to supply chain conditions for said plurality of said tiers.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen by Applicants to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, at least with respect to “a dictionary of translations that can be used to translate transitive information in said information from said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers for cross-tier communication in said extended supply chain.” An example of such transitive information in the application includes part numbers. (The invention is not limited to this example.)

In more detail, the only ones of the applied references that appear to Applicants to discuss translation are Wong and Yehia. Wong discloses that its “IPA also contains a listener to enable the system to understand and translate incoming messages as well” (see, e.g., para [0069]). Yehia discloses “protocol translation” (see, e.g., para [0079]). Neither of these references discloses use of a dictionary for these translations, and the translations themselves do not appear to Applicants to be of “translate transitive information ... for cross-tier communication in said extended supply chain.” Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable over the applied art. Such action is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 24 have been amended to recite “translating, for cross-tier communication in said extended supply chain, transitive information in said data using a dictionary of translations of said transitive information.” Substantially as discussed above, none of the applied art is seen by Applicants to teach such translation. Accordingly, claim 24 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable over the applied art. Such action is respectfully requested.

No Admission

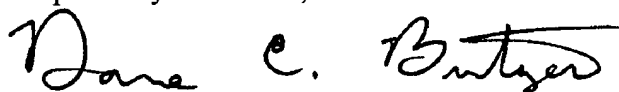
Applicants’ decision not to argue each of the dependent claims separately is not an admission that the subject matter of those claims is taught by the applied art.

Closing

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 205-3241. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dane C. Butzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dane" being the most prominent.

Dane C. Butzer
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